

Interstate MAX LRT Extension

Portland, Oregon

(November 2002)

Description

The Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon (Tri-Met) is constructing a 5.8-mile extension of its Light Rail Transit (LRT) system known locally as the Interstate Metropolitan Area Express (Interstate MAX). The Interstate MAX line is extending existing LRT service northward from the Rose Quarter and the Oregon Convention Center in downtown Portland to North Portland neighborhoods, medical facilities, the Portland International Raceway, and the Metropolitan Exposition Center. The project includes ten stations, 17 LRT vehicles, two park and ride facilities, and expansion of the vehicle storage and maintenance at Ruby Junction Yard/Junction/Shops. The project is expected to serve 18,100 average weekday boardings in 2020, including 8,400 new riders.

The total project cost under the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) is \$350 million. The 5309 New Starts funding share for the project is \$257.50 million.

Status

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approved entry into Preliminary Engineering for the 12-mile South-North LRT in April 1996. In February 1998, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was completed for the project. A supplemental DEIS for the north portion was completed in April 1999 as a result of a failed 1998 General Bond Measure. The Final EIS on the Interstate MAX project was completed in October 1999, and FTA issued a Record of Decision for the project in January 2000. FTA approved the project into Final Design in February 2000. Tri-Met and FTA entered into an FFGA on September 22, 2000, with a revenue operations date scheduled for September 3, 2004. Construction started in June 2001 and is approximately 70 percent complete.

TEA-21 Section 3030(a)(66) authorizes the north portion of the Portland South-North Corridor LRT (Interstate MAX) for final design and construction. Through FY 2002, Congress has appropriated \$63.36 million in Section 5309 New Starts funds for the project. This total includes \$7.43 million in prior year funds that are not included in the FFGA commitment.

Reported in Year of Expenditure Dollars		
<u>Source of Funds</u>	<u>Total Funding (million)</u>	<u>Appropriations to Date</u>
Federal:		
Section 5309 New Starts FFGA Commitment	\$257.50	\$70.79 million appropriated through FY 2002 *
Flexible Funds	\$ 24.00	STP/CMAQ
Local:		
City of Portland	\$ 30.00	
Tri-Met Revenue Bonds	\$ 38.50	
TOTAL	\$350.00	

NOTE: Total may not add due to rounding.

* The appropriations to date reported above include \$7.4 million in prior year Section 5309 New Starts funds that are not included in the FFGA commitment.

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